(c) During 1996-97 seven assignments have taken up for organisations outside SAIL. Details are as under :

Sl. No.	Assignment Title	Organisation
1.	Testing of Coal Samples	Sesa Kembla, Goa.
2.	Pilot Scale testing of Foreign coal samples.	VSP, Visakhapatnam.
3.	Testing of coal Samples.	Friends coal, Dhanbad.
4.	Testing of Rust Preventive Oil Samples.	HPCL, Bombay.
5.	Testing of 4 Rust Preventive Oil Samples.	IDC Ltd. R & D Faridabad.
6.	Consultancy for Caliberation of CSR-CRI Equipments.	Sesa Kembla, Goa
7.	Decrepitation test of SMS Grade Limestone samples.	RSMD Jodhpur.

Limited number of Assignments are pursued for outside parties, because the in-house requirement of R & D in SAIL itself is quite substantial. However, depending upon the requests from outside parties, such arrangements are taken up to the extent possible.

Joint Venture Railway Services

3582. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a joint venture Railway Services is being introduced in Goa Sector;

(b) if so, the details of passenger amenities and expenditure incurred;

(c) whether the Government propose to examine the feasibility of introducing such services from Mangolpuri to New Delhi Railway Station:

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Certain services with cost sharing arrangement between Goa Government and Konkan Railway Corporation are being proposed including on Karwar-Pernam section. Konkan Railway Corporation has also accepted the offer of M/s. Patil Tours & Travel Pvt. Ltd. For ownership, marketing and management of Tourist Train for Mumbai-Goa-Madgaon Circuit for a period of 15 years.

(c) to (e) No joint Venture train services are proposed between Mangolpuri and New Delhi due to technical reasons.

Subsidy on Liquid Fuel

3583. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to withdraw subsidy on liquid fuel imports required for proposed power plants;

(b) whether the withdrawal of subsidy will push up power rates effecting the common man; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) Pricing of liquid fuel imports for power plants would be outside the administered pricing mechanism and would not be linked up with Oil Pool Account. The Prices would be based on international prices, and would not have any element of subsidy. A Planning Commission study had shown that at the locations studied, liquid fuel based power plants would be at the more expensive end of the available options. However, these plants can be commissioned within a much shorter time compared to power plants based on conventional fuels.

Captive Thermal Power Stations

3584. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of contracts awarded for setting up captive thermal power stations of 10 to 20 MW in the mining areas of the country;

(b) whether these are based on the use of washeries rejects as fuel or on normal coal;

(c) if so, the estimated capital required for investment on these projects;

(d) the progress made so far in setting up the captive thermal power stations in the various mining areas; and

(e) the reasons for delay in taking up the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The names of contracts awarded for setting up aptive thermal power stations of 10 to 20 MW in the mining areas of the country by M/s Coal India Limited are as given below :

Sl. No.	Site	Capacity (MW)	Awarded to
1	2	3	4
1.	Rajrappa	1x10	M/s DLF Power Ltd.
2.	Bhojudih	1x10	-do-
3.	Gidi	1x10	-do-
4.	Madhuband	2x10	-do-